

# Oliver Glasgow KC

Call: 1995 | Silk: 2016

"Oliver has an infectious enthusiasm for the work and judges and juries trust and respect him. He is an exceptionally talented prosecutor."

Chambers UK 2025



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Oliver Glasgow KC was appointed First Senior Treasury Counsel in 2021 and is on the Attorney-General's list of approved counsel. He has a reputation for detailed preparation, exceptional advocacy and is "an especially good cross-examiner". He is recommended as one of the star individuals in the Chambers UK Guide and one of the leading silks in the Legal 500.

He divides his practice between working at the highest level in the criminal sphere; appearing in public inquiries and inquests where the government, the military or the security services are often involved; and specialising in complicated and serious quasi-criminal and regulatory work.

- He appears on behalf of the major prosecuting authorities in high profile trials of the utmost gravity and his work has won the plaudits of judges and opponents alike who have described him as "a different class from most".
- He advises and acts for the government and government agencies in inquiries and inquests engaging national security interests where his advocacy skills have marked him out as "something special".
- He represents agencies, companies and individuals in regulatory and health and safety investigations and proceedings, where his tactical acumen has seen him recognised as "commercial, hard-working and very approachable".

Winner of the Crime and Extradition Silk of the Year at The Legal 500 UK Bar Awards 2022.

Winner of the Crime Silk of the Year at Chambers UK Bar Awards 2023.

Oliver accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

## Expertise

### Business Crime & Financial Services

He has extensive experience advising and acting for companies and businesses in all areas of business crime and financial regulation.

- His ability to provide concise and practical advice across a range of financial and business matters has proved invaluable to clients.
- He is presently instructed to advise an international company in connection with a private prosecution, and a foreign national being investigated by the SFO.

## Cases

### *Current Instructions:*

#### **Anon**

Oliver is presently advising the SFO in connection with allegations of fraud arising out of abuse of the coronavirus loan scheme set up by the government during the pandemic.

### *Recent Instructions:*

#### **DA**

The defendant, a successful Hong Kong tax advisor, is being investigated and prosecuted by her regulatory body in connection with her management of client funds.

#### **RA**

The defendant, who acted as an intermediary between BAE and a foreign government, is under investigation for bribery and corruption as part of an on-going SFO investigation.

#### **SR**

The defendant company, who provide services to the betting industry, has sought advice in connection with protecting their business interests and bringing a private prosecution against a rival business for infringement of their activities and defamation.

## Health & Safety

In health and safety work he has significant experience in corporate manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter.

- He has applied the skills demanded by his criminal work to health and safety litigation with ease. In so doing he has combined his tactical finesse and quick thinking with an ability to review and assess the significance of large amounts of complex material.
- He has successfully prosecuted several high profile corporate manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter cases.
- He has advised and represented companies in all areas of health and safety litigation, successfully overturning charging decisions and securing the dismissal of cases at pre-trial hearings.
- He has provided training to solicitors and companies alike on health and safety and has written numerous articles.

## Cases

### *Current Instructions:*

#### **Condor Ferries – Op Nectar**

Oliver is instructed to advise the AG of Jersey in connection with the investigation and potential prosecution in respect of the Condor Ferry disaster which saw a fishing trawler involved in a collision with a cargo ferry and which resulted in the sinking of the trawler and the loss of all lives.

#### **Island Energy (Jersey) – Op Spire**

Oliver is instructed to advise the AG of Jersey in connection with the investigation and potential prosecution in respect of the gas explosion in St. Helier which resulted in an explosion in a block of flats that left ten of the residents dead and the building completely destroyed.

*Recent Instructions:*

#### **R v Geo & Primecare**

Oliver was instructed to review the intended prosecution of the international management company and healthcare provider at an immigration detention centre where a detainee had died after being kept in abhorrent conditions.

Following an extensive evaluation of the available evidence and the competing duties it was determined (despite a previous public indication to the contrary) that there was insufficient evidence to continue with the case.

Oliver further advised the CPS following the outcome of the inquest and what impact the evidence called before the coroner might have, if any, upon the conclusions already reached.

#### **R v Aster Healthcare Ltd**

The care home, its manager and various staff members were prosecuted for the death of an elderly resident who was placed in a bath of scalding water.

The defendants were convicted of Corporate Manslaughter and health and safety offences, and the company was fined over £1M.

#### **Smart Motorways**

Oliver was instructed to advise the Department for Transport and the government in connection with a large number of fatalities on sections of the MI and other smart motorways. The police and HSE are currently investigating the deaths and there are linked JR proceedings challenging the validity of the strategic road network policy.

*“An extraordinary talent and a man who knows his job inside out” – Chambers UK*

## **Inquests & Public Inquiries**

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He has extensive experience advising in connection with and appearing for interested parties in inquests and public inquiries.

- His ability to combine cross-examination of the highest calibre whilst keeping a keen eye on the client's needs have seen him instructed in highly sensitive cases across the country.
- He is presently instructed in the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry which is considering allegations of prosecutorial misconduct in the handling of historic child abuse allegations.

## Cases

### *Current Instructions:*

#### **Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan**

Oliver is counsel to the Inquiry. The inquiry, which is being chaired by Haddon-Cave LJ, is investigating allegations that UK Special Forces carried out extra-judicial killings on operations in Afghanistan, that these allegations were covered up, and that the eventual military police investigation into the allegations was not fit for purpose.

#### **Condor Ferries – Op Nectar**

Oliver is instructed to advise the AG of Jersey in connection with the investigation and potential prosecution in respect of the Condor Ferry disaster which saw a fishing trawler involved in a collision with a cargo ferry and which resulted in the sinking of the trawler and the loss of all lives. Those affected by the disaster, including ministers and politicians, have called for a public inquiry.

#### **Island Energy (Jersey) – Op Spire**

Oliver is instructed to advise the AG of Jersey in connection with the investigation and potential prosecution in respect of the gas explosion in St. Helier which resulted in an explosion in a block of flats that left ten of the residents dead and the building completely destroyed. Those affected by the disaster, including ministers and politicians, have called for a public inquiry.

### *Recent Instructions:*

#### **Iraq Historic Abuse Litigation**

Oliver represented the MoD. The MoD faced 196 combined judicial reviews in respect of the failure to investigate and prosecute allegations of torture of Iraqi nationals at the hands of British soldiers.

#### **Smart Motorways**

Oliver was instructed to advise the Department for Transport and the government in connection with a large number of fatalities on sections of the MI and other smart motorways.

The police and HSE are currently investigating the deaths and there are linked JR proceedings challenging the validity of the strategic road network policy.

#### **Independent Jersey Care Inquiry**

Oliver represented the Law Officers' Department, the Attorney General and the four past Attorneys General. The Law Officers Department was one of the interested parties appearing at the public inquiry which examined the allegations of abuse of children whilst in care on the island. The terms of reference included claims that the prosecuting authorities had failed properly to investigate the allegations and that there had been an institutional cover up in order to protect the reputation of the island.

#### **Southern Cross Inquest**

Oliver represented the Insurance Company. The operators of a care home in West Sussex, which was said to have been one of the worst examples of its kind, were an interested party to the inquest conducted into the deaths of 19 elderly residents.

## Private Prosecution

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His experience as senior Treasury Counsel, which has seen him prosecute some of the most high profile and complex public prosecutions in recent years, has effectively translated to the private market.

- His ability to provide concise and practical advice across a range of investigative and tactical issues has proved invaluable to clients.
- His expertise in cross-examination and witness handling has contributed to the successful conclusion of cases in which he has acted for the victims of fraud.
- He is presently instructed to advise an international company in connection with a private prosecution, a private property developer who has been the victim of a significant fraud, and a witness to a private prosecution who faces a costs application for his part in the proceedings.

## Cases

*Recent Instructions:*

**S**

S is an international betting company whose business has been disrupted by the activities of its principal competitor and it is anticipated that the competitor will attempt to bring a private prosecution in order to secure exclusive control over the lucrative market in which they operate.

**AC**

The victim is a successful international businessman who has been defrauded of hundreds of thousands of pounds and who has brought a private prosecution against the fraudster who has refused to return the money. The proceedings are ongoing and it is anticipated that the trial will now take place in 2021.

## Public Prosecution

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In serious and organised crime his areas of expertise include murder, firearms and terrorism.

- He appears as sole or leading counsel in cases at first instance and in the Court of Appeal.
- His appointment as Treasury Counsel has seen him instructed in some of the highest profile prosecutions to take place in recent years.
- He acts for all the principal investigative agencies and prosecution bodies.
- He has acted for the Security Services, the MoD and the government in cases of national security.
- He provides training to solicitors and advocates on criminal litigation and advocacy, and has written articles and books on criminal law.

## Cases

*Recent Instructions:*

**R v Kirill Belorusov**

The defendant was convicted of the brutal murder of his ex-girlfriend (a French film producer), whose body he then buried in a shallow grave in her back garden before he played out a detailed deception upon her friends and family by sending messages from her mobile phone that gave the impression she was alive and well.

#### **R v Seed & Others**

The defendants were convicted of the murder of their friend and fellow gang member who died in a shoot-out they had with their rivals and was killed by a bullet fired by an unidentified member of the rival gang; it was described as a home side homicide. It was the first case of its kind ever to be prosecuted and it has attracted huge social debate and academic interest.

#### **R v Jordan McSweeney**

The defendant was convicted of the shocking murder of Zara Aleena – the young lawyer who was dragged off the street, sexually assaulted and then beaten to death. The offence attracted international media attention and his sentence and subsequent misconduct has further fueled the debate about the safety of women and the punishment of men who kill women.

#### **R v Al-Jundi & El-Abboud**

The defendants were convicted of defrauding and murdering an elderly divorcee, hiding her body and leaving a false trail of evidence for her family and friends intending to lead them to believe that she had gone overseas.

## Sports Law

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In sports law his areas of expertise include disciplinary tribunals and appeals, advising individuals and teams on doping allegations, and advising teams and companies on betting irregularities.

- He has represented several high profile stars and teams in connection with allegations of on field misconduct.
- He has advised several teams and individuals in connection with allegations of doping and their dealings with UKAD and WADA.
- He presently represents one of the largest betting companies in connection with a dispute arising from access to commercially sensitive data.
- Chambers UK described his knowledge of sports law as “impressive” and recognise that his defence of sportsmen receives “much media attention”.

## Cases

#### *Current Instructions:*

##### **Anon**

Oliver is representing a premiership football star in connection with allegations of criminal misconduct.

#### *Recent Instructions:*

##### **ERB v Harlequins**

The club, its director and several key players and support staff were accused of cheating in a case that became known as the infamous “Bloodgate” scandal.

**RFU v A**

Four players from the England touring side were accused of a serious sexual offence in New Zealand and faced allegations of bringing the game into disrepute on their return.